STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
SIDDHARTA

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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Visit: www.starofmysore.com

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

9 Red Zones inside Mysuru city

- Single entry and exit point; 200 metres around COVID-19 positive person's house sealed
- Essential supplies provided to doorsteps; disinfectants sprayed twice a day

Mysuru, Apr. 21- Nine areas inside Mysuru city where positive cases of Coronavirus are found have been declared as Cluster and Containment Zones or Red Zones. These Zones have been identified as Hotpots within Mysuru that has already been declared as a Hotspot in Karnataka.

The cluster containment strategy is to contain the disease within a defined geographic area by detecting cases in the nascent stage, breaking the chain of transmission and preventing its spread to new areas.

The containment strategy includes geographic quarantine, social distancing measures, enhanced active surveillance, testing all suspected cases, isolation of cases, quarantine of contacts and risk communication to create awareness among the public on preventive public health measures.

(See RED ZONES on page 6)

A Command Centre established at a Containment Zone in Kuvempunagar. This is the only entry and exit point in the Red Zone.

Karnataka to pass ordinance to rein in mobs attacking COVID-19 workers

Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar seen speaking to the ASHA worker who was allegedly threatened by miscreants in city this morning.

Mysuru, Apr. 21- The State Government will promulgate an ordinance, based on the Uttar Pradesh and Kerala model, to protect the Police and frontline health workers fighting COVID-19, said Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar. The Ordinance is likely to be promulgated today itself.

This morning, an incident took place in Mysuru city where an ASHA worker was allegedly threatened by miscreants for asking them not to roam around during lockdown.

The ASHA worker saw a group of three youths and asked them to get back to their homes and respect the lockdown norms. Irked by this, the trio threatened the ASHA worker of dire consequences. The ASHA worker has filed a Police complaint.

(See PASS ORDINANCE on page 3)

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya

Healthcare and ASHA workers leading COVID-19 war in Mysuru

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

Mysuru, Apr. 21- Hundreds of Healthcare and ASHA workers go into homes around Mysuru district to provide vital services amidst Coronavirus pandemic, endangering themselves.

These ASHAs, short for Accredited Social Health Activists and Healthcare workers are drawn from local and largely rural communities, and are a crucial element in primary and community health programmes. They go door-to-door educating people about maternal and child health, contraception, immunisation and sanitation, as well as enrolling them in health programmes and monitoring the results.

Health workers are at risk

Their role in the fight against COVID-19 is not that different — they visit the homes they have been assigned, educate families about isolation, and monitor people for symptoms of the virus. But the risk is far greater than anything they have faced before.

For one, they only have minimum protection equipment like masks and sanitisers. Owing to shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), these workers are only given basic stuff like masks and sanitisers while the actual protocol says they must wear PPEs when they visit vulnerable areas. Several ASHA workers told 'Star of Mysore' that they use cotton masks which they wash daily so they can re-use them. With Mysuru being declared as a Red Zone or a Hotspot, the Health Department is working overtime chalking out more measures to contain the spread of the virus.

Sadly, several of these Health workers and ASHA workers are underpaid. Most of the health workers are on contract and ASHA workers get a meagre salary of Rs. 4,000 per month and now for the Coronavirus work, they get Rs. 1000 extra.

These workers have been putting their lives in danger on a meagre salary. "We should be protected. It's the Government's responsibility to support us," they said. But low salary does not discourage them from going to work. "My husband insists that I shouldn't go to work. He says other people such as nurses and doctors get paid a better salary, let them do this work," says an ASHA worker on condition of anonymity.

Educating masses

The Department has deployed 609 Junior and Senior Health Assistants attached to 117 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) of the district to visit homes in vulnerable areas and clusters around Nanjangud, the epicentre of the viral attack from Jubilant Generics and educate people on the precautionary and safety measures to be taken to prevent COVID-19.

With people still continuing to come out of their homes despite strict lockdown regulations, the work of the health workers has become all the more important in respect of sensitising the public on the importance of following all lockdown regulations and maintain social distancing.

Role becomes vital

The role of the health workers in educating the people has become vital in this hour of crisis. While doctors, nurses and other para-medical staff are attending to patients inside the hospital risking their own lives, the health workers work outside and are very much part of the frontline Coronavirus warriors.

The health workers who along with ASHA workers are carrying out door-to-door COVID-19 survey, collect data of all the residents of every home in respect of health issues. They also conduct a preliminary health check-up of the residents and sensitise them on the importance of maintaining social distancing during this crucial hour.

Population and medical facilities

There are 21 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 2 Community Health Centres (CHCs) and other hospitals in the city, which has nearly 11 lakh population, while Mysuru Taluk, which has a population of 3.5 lakh has 14 PHCs and 1 CHC, T. Narasipur Taluk with a population of 3.02 lakh has 14 PHCs, 3 CHCs and a General Hospital, Nanjangud Taluk with a population of 4 lakh has 17 PHCs, 2 CHCs and a General Hospital, H.D. Kote Taluk with a population of 2.8 lakh has 16 PHCs,1 CHC and a General Hospital, Hunsur Taluk with a population of 3 lakh has 21 PHCs and a General Hospital, Periyapatna Taluk with a population of 2.66 lakh has 19 PHCs and a General Hospital and K.R. Nagar Taluk with a population of 2.58 lakh has 14 PHCs, a CHC and a General Hospital.

Overall, Mysuru District has a population of nearly 32.25 lakh, with six General Hospitals, 10 CHCs, 117 PHCs, 23 Urban PHCs, 7 Maternity Hospitals, 4 Mobile Health Units, 1 ED (Epidemic Diseases) Hospital and 2 Extension Health Centres, totalling 170 Hospitals.

Of the 609 health workers engaged in the survey and related tasks, 160 are female Junior Health Assistants, 110 male Junior Health Assistants, 39 Senior Health Assistants and the rest are other health staff.

Active surveillance team at work

The authorities, after demarcating the areas where quarantined people are located as epicentres, have formed an active surveillance team which will visit all homes located in 3 km radius of such epicentres and carry out health checks of residents.

The team examines the residents for fever and other ailments that are symptomatic of COVID-19, which is called as Phase-1 of testing. The team will again visit the residents after 10 days in the second phase, during which any resident found to be facing health problems, will be shifted to the designated COVID-19 Hospital for a thorough medical examination and will be admitted there if tested positive, said District Vector-Borne Diseases Control Officer Dr. Chidambara.

Ten-year-old girl celebrates birthday by distributing groceries to poor families

Mysuru, Apr. 21- A 10-year-old girl, who celebrated her birthday with family and friends every year, this time celebrated the day by distributing groceries to 50 families affected by the lockdown. Lipika, daughter of Jagadish and Ashwini couple and a resident of Vontikoppal in city, turned 10 on Sunday and she made her day by giving some relief to those affected. Usually children wish to cut cake in the presence of family members, relatives, friends and celebrate the birthday with fun. But this little girl won the hearts of many by serving the needy.

Speaking to media, Lipika, a 5th standard student of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Mysuru, said: "I have seen in the news that many people have been rendered homeless with some not even getting a day's meal due to Corona lockdown. Every year my birthday was a grand affair. But this year, I am happy to celebrate this occasion by giving groceries and vegetables to the poor on my father's advice."

The girl's father, Jagadish, said that there was a practice of celebrating his daughter's birthday every year in a grand manner at some Choultry or Function Hall. This time it was decided to provide groceries and other items sufficient for 15 days to a few families who had lost their jobs with the nation coming to a standstill, he added. "So far we have distributed grocery kits to 50 people. We will give more such kits if permission is given. We had spent Rs.25,000 to prepare these kits," he added.

VOICE OF THE READER

Safety first: Maintain social distance when moving on two-wheelers

Sir,

It can be seen through media that still many people are riding doubles on two-wheeler during the current COVID-19 lockdown period, which is against the advisory and caution given by City Police to keep social distance even while travelling.

Triple riding, all without helmets, is most common even now in peripheral areas, if not in city limits. In addition, many have forgotten wearing helmet (in most of the cases both rider and pillion), which is also an essential gadget for motorists. Similar to helmet, nose mask has also become a showpiece. Many are seen not wearing it properly when they are moving around or keeping in hand while walking or going on two-wheelers, making themselves exposed to open air, which is risky under the present circumstances.

Hence, people are advised to maintain social distance even when moving on two-wheelers by avoiding double or triple rides and wear helmet and face masks without fail to protect themselves and not to put others at risk.

— Dr. S.V.N. Vijayendra,
Traffic Warden and Member,
Traffic Advisory Committee
Roopanagar, Mysuru
18.4.2020

ICSI-RVO introduces 50-hour Online Educational Course

Mysuru, Apr. 21- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought in a paradigm shift in the process of learning and education. Virtual classrooms have become today's reality and to stay ahead of the curve, Institute of Company Secretaries of India - Registered Valuers Organisation (ICSI-RVO) is introducing 50-hour Online Educational Course on 'Valuation of Securities or Financial Assets' from Apr. 23 to 26. Another session was held earlier from Apr.18 to 20.

The establishment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), changed the regulatory landscape in the country and ushered in the need of Registered Valuers to carry out valuation as required by the different Statutes and Authorities in India.

ICSI - RVO, a not-for-profit Private Limited Company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, was incorporated on Nov.22, 2017, with an intent to educate, train and provide a strong army of Valuation Professionals from amongst the members of ICSI and other eligible professionals possessing three years of post-qualification experience.

In furtherance to protecting and supporting its esteemed members, ICSI - RVO has proposed various other continuous educational programmes and initiatives like invitation for development of research papers / case studies and development of MCQs on valuation related topics. Top five research manuscripts will also be appropriately awarded with cash prizes.

Members willing to register for the Educational Courses may fill-in the online application form at www.icsirvo.in with the required documents like Pan Card, Aadhaar Card, Membership and CoP/Experience Certificate (in case of employment) etc.

CS Ashish Garg, President, ICSI, welcomed the efforts of ICSI- RVO and urged members to utilise this valuable time in upskilling themselves and enhancing their knowledge base.

CS (Dr.) Shyam Agarwal, Chairman, ICSI RVO, added that this would help members in not just clearing the examination conducted by IBBI, but also in becoming knowledgeable professionals. For details, contact "ICSI House", #125, NHCSL Layout, Off. KRS Road, Opp. to J.K. Tyres, Metagalli, Mysuru or call Ph: 0821-2516065 or e-mail: mysuru@icsi.edu

Karnataka to pass ordinance

(Continued from page 1)

Reacting on the incident, Minister Somashekhar told reporters that the Police have booked an FIR and the trio would soon be arrested. The Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Ordinance is mainly aimed at reining in those who are attacking frontline staff fighting the pandemic. The Ordinance gives the State government extraordinary powers to deal with the current COVID-19 outbreak by imposing restrictions on essential services. The ordinance also empowers the government to impose a 2-year penalty on curfew violators.

Mysuru-origin US Doctor gets a brilliant 100-car salute

Mysuru, Apr. 21- It was a proud moment for Mysuru as a city-based doctor living in the United States received a unique 'Drive of Honour', a heart-warming gesture to appreciate her efforts in fighting the global Coronavirus pandemic.

The 'Drive of Honour' was performed in front of the house of Dr. Uma Madhusudan, a Mysuru-based doctor who is treating COVID-19 patients in South Windsor Hospital in the USA.

The local neighbourhood in the USA honoured her and the video of the 'Drive of Honour' has gone viral. In the video, several Police vehicles, fire brigade trucks and private vehicles can be seen going past through her house with sirens and honks blowing. A convoy of at least 100 vehicles drove past Dr. Madhusudan's house stopping by for a few seconds and thanking her.

As the global coronavirus crisis deepens, doctors across the world are being hailed as heroes and saviours, putting their own lives at risk to protect that of others. Dr. Uma Madhusudan is a 1990 batch graduate from JSS Medical College, a constituent college of JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mysuru. Dr. Uma works at South Windsor Hospital.

The 'Drive of Honour' video has been shared by Karnataka Medical education Minister Dr. Sudhakar on Twitter. The video shows Dr. Uma standing at her lawn while a string of vehicles pass her by with the drivers waving at her, honking and cheering.

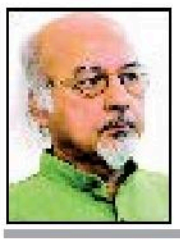
"Happy to share a video of Uma Madhusudhan, Mysuru origin Doctor in US being honoured in front of her house by grateful patients," Sudhakar wrote. "It's a beautiful sight of cars, police vehicles, and fire trucks lining up in gratitude, waving and honking to say Thank you Dr. Uma!"

The tweet has since been going viral and even the teachers and friends from JSS Medical College have sent their greetings and appreciation.

Corporator hands over grocery kits to Newspaper Distributors

Newspapers, though listed among essentials and with no events happening around, have lost its weight literally with less number of pages being printed in almost all the publications. Lockdown has forced Internet to be the way of life and yet, for some, newspapers have still remained a source of daily dose on information. Hence, Newspaper Distributors play a major role in their own way. Picture shows Corporator M.V. Ramprasad handing over grocery kits at Chamundipuram Circle in Mysuru this morning to Newspaper Distributors, who make it a point to door-deliver newspapers to the subscribers against all odds amidst lockdown.

THE TRUTH IS: WE ARE MEANINGLESS



Point of VIEW

T.J.S. George

Sardar Patel's statue at Ahmedabad was recently advertised for sale at Rs. 30,000 crore by "unknown persons." Clearly it was someone's idea of a joke and could have been dismissed as such. But the quality of humour is strained; it droppeth as the gentle rain for only the cultured. It blesseth him that provides comedy and him that enjoys it. But it curses those bereft of a sense of humour, politicians for example. No wonder the politicians of Gujarat filed an FIR against the unknown persons on charges of cheating and forgery under the Penal Code, the Epidemic Diseases Act, and the Information Technology Act?

Epidemic diseases? Administrators see the world in ways ordinary citizens cannot. The Sardar statue episode proves this yet again. This is a monument that openly copied the Statue of Liberty in New York, as is clear from the very name, Statue of Unity. But the unity theme was a contrived one unlike the liberty theme which was a natural one. That naturalness echoed in its immortal lines: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free... I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

India had no such message to convey and no golden door to open. The Patel statue with its grandiose name was merely another attempt to show that those who put it up had a grand vision. But all that they could do was to make it the world's tallest. For that, the tribals were deprived of their land and 300 crocodiles were evicted to make way for tourist infrastructure. Even then it did not become historically significant.

The offer to sell the Sardar statue may not have culminated in a deal, but it shed light on the way life has changed for all of us. Overnight as it were, humour has become suspect if not undesirable. Ideas and assumptions have undergone wholesale changes. Neighbours, friends and relatives are no longer what they were before. What we have known is gone. What we do not know has taken over. Where we go and how is unknown to us.

The transformation the world is undergoing is unprecedented. There were several Great Plagues in the past. One in the Istanbul area in the 6th century saw deaths at the rate of 10,000 a day. But at the end of each devastation, the world returned to what it was before. This time it will be a new world to which survivors return. In the past we shaped our world. Now the world will shape us in ways to which we will have to adjust whether we like it or not.

A look at just one factor is enough to bring out the catastrophic nature of the new changes overtaking us. Restrictions on movement and on gatherings of people mean that most work-places have to close. Consequently, people are losing jobs en masse. Early estimates said 400 million Indians will be devoured by unemployment and pushed into poverty. Even the IT sector in Bengaluru has companies announcing 30 percent salary cuts and terminations that run into hundreds. Unemployment on this scale will shake the foundations of any Nation State.

The days beyond may be worse, not better. Reports are out recalling a conference of scientists in Germany last year. Apparently they had sounded a warning. The frozen earth of Arctic, they had said, was home to microbes that had remained dormant for centuries because of the ice. Now the Arctic is warming up, rapidly at that, and the microbes are getting released. One virus, described as a giant, was found to have remained frozen in an ice core for 30,000 years. The giant is now free.

May be now we will pay attention to authors who wrote novels on microbes. I wish I had read some of them. But till yesterday microbes were a boring subject and I could not have been the only one who considered reading fiction about them a waste of time. Now they say "Vitals" by Greg Bear (2002) is very much about the bacteria phenomenon that we have run into. Look up Google and you will see that the "Bacteria Book List" is pretty long. I found the term "bio-terrorism" there. And a book with the title "Apocalypse by Epidemic."

We think that we, mankind, is the ultimate power-wielder. We can declare lockdowns as we please, criticise Prime Ministers, promote communalism, even team up with VIPs to break the law. But before the bacteria, we are not just powerless; we are meaningless.

ADGP Alok Kumar reviews bandobust by KSRP personnel in Mysuru

ADGP (KSRP) Alok Kumar inspecting the bandobust by KSRP personnel at Udayagiri this morning.

Mysuru, Apr. 21- Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Alok Kumar, who arrived in Mysuru yesterday, reviewed the bandobust by KSRP personnel deployed at BSNL Circle in Udayagiri this morning. One platoon of KSRP personnel is deployed on COVID-19 duty in city.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda, Devaraja Sub-Division Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Shashidhar, Udayagiri Inspector Poonacha and others, the ADGP, after inspecting bandobust, briefed the KSRP personnel and also listened to their grievances. He later left for Malavalli in Mandya district.

Yesterday, the ADGP inspected Bandipalya APMC Yard where KSRP personnel are deployed. He briefed the Police officials about the steps to be taken to tighten bandobust and took stock of the facilities provided to them.

Alok Kumar also briefed the KSRP personnel about the safety measures to be taken by them to avoid contracting the virus and instilled confidence among them in their fight against the pandemic. After inspecting Bandipalya, the ADGP left for Nanjangud, where two KSRP platoons are deployed and reviewed the bandobust.

Superintendent of Police (SP) C.B. Ryshyanth, Additional SP P.V. Sneha, Nanjangud DySP Prabhakar Rao Shinde and other Police officials were present during the ADGP's inspection yesterday.

Lockdown: MGP conducts monthly meeting online

Assists District Administration in combating COVID; seeks donations

Mysuru, Apr.21- For the first time in 29 years, Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) conducted its monthly meeting online on Apr.12 in view of the COVID-19 lockdown. This move was much appreciated by the members present in the meeting.

The members were informed about the steps taken by MGP to assist the District Administration to combat the pandemic which included manufacturing and distribution of sanitisers to all Pourakarmikas and Police with the help of MCC.

In all, 850 bottles of 200ml sanitisers were distributed and 10 Chemical sprayers were donated to District Administration to carry out disinfection at Railway Station, City and Sub-urban bus stands and the city market.

MGP also facilitated in procurement of thermal scanners for District Administration with help of SJCE-STEP at a nominal cost of Rs. 3,500 against market price of Rs. 20,000.

MGP is accepting monetary donations to fight COVID-19 and help the needy during the lockdown. The public can donate to MGP bank account by online transfer [Account No. 54004561993 Name: Mysore Grahakara Parishat, IFSC code:SBIN0040272], according to a press release from MGP Secretary.

This Akshaya Tritiya,

purchase Gold Ownership Certificate from Kalyan Jewellers

Mysuru, Apr.21- With stay-at-home becoming the new normal, traditions are becoming increasingly challenging to practice. Akshaya Tritiya, one of the most auspicious days of the Hindu calendar, known to bring good fortune, prosperity and luck, being one of them. With enquires about purchasing gold on this day of Akshaya Tritiya increasing, Kalyan Jewellers has announced the launch of its Gold Ownership Certificate that can be purchased on the website on or before Akshaya Tritiya.

Customers can purchase gold from 2 grams upwards, and the Gold Ownership Certificate will be sent to them on the day of Akshaya Tritiya via email / WhatsApp or other customer recommended platforms.

The Gold Ownership Certificate will indicate that the person now owns gold of a certain gram/value, thus fulfilling the tradition of Akshaya Tritiya – which is about buying gold on that auspicious day. Akshaya Tritiya, also known as Akti or Akha Teej, falls on the third Tithi (lunar day) of Bright Half (Shukla Paksha) of Vaisakha month. The festival date varies and falls in April or May every year. This year its falls on Apr. 26 (Sunday). Last year the festival was on May 7.

Once the lockdown is lifted, the customer can redeem their Gold Ownership Certificate against physical gold, in the form of jewellery or coins, on or before December 31, 2020.

As the rate protection offer is also included in this certificate, customers get the additional benefit of protection against price fluctuations. If on the day of redemption, the price of gold is lower, then that rate will apply.

Speaking about this programme, T.S. Kalyanaraman, Chairman and Managing Director, Kalyan Jewellers, said: "This is for the first time in decades that we are in a state of lockdown during the Akshaya Tritiya period. Over the past 25 odd years, we have developed a regular set of clientele who purchase gold on Akshaya Tritiya from our showrooms. It is a tradition that they follow every year. This time around, owing to the extension of the lockdown, our social media channels and customer relationship managers, are flooded with queries about purchasing gold on the auspicious day. This has promoted us to come up with a solution, to best serve our customers' needs. While we know that this temporary solution of Gold Ownership Certificate is no match for the real thing, we are happy that we will be able to keep tradition going."

While the brick-and-mortar showrooms will remain shut on Akshaya Tritiya, customers can avail this newly launched facility to purchase gold. This facility will be available on https://at.kalyanjewellers.net/goc from Apr. 21, 2020

Simply log in, choose the city of redemption, and buy. The option of off-setting the Gold Ownership Certificate against jewellery of the same gram/value, might also be a very attractive proposition for families who had planned to buy some of their bridal jewellery on Akshaya Tritiya.

Kalyan Jewellers has also tied up with multiple Banks to ensure that the customers extract additional benefits on their credit card purchases.

Headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala, Kalyan Jewellers is one of the largest jewellery manufacturers and distributors in India. For details, contact Kartik Behl on Mob: 9004333899 or e-mail: kartik.behl@adfactorspr.com; Ekta Nainani on Mob: 9930738816 or e-mail: ekta.nainani@adfactorspr.com.

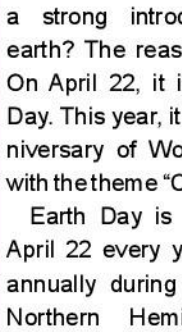
Khaki warning to violators

Metagalli Police Station Inspector Raghavendra Gowda seen warning the residents through public address system fitted to a Police vehicle about the strict measures taken by the Police Department. Asking residents not to move around unnecessarily, he also warned the violators that the Police would seize vehicles if they are on the move after 12 noon.

50th Anniversary of

World Earth Day tomorrow

Earth is the third planet from the Sun. It is the largest of the terrestrial planets in the Solar System in diameter, mass and density. It is also referred to as the World and Terra. The planet formed 4.54 billion years ago, and life appeared on its surface within a billion years. Since then, Earth's biosphere has significantly altered the atmosphere and other abiotic conditions on the planet, enabling the proliferation of aerobic organisms as well as the formation of the ozone layer which, together with Earth's magnetic field, blocks harmful radiation, permitting life on land. The world is expected to continue supporting life for another 1.5 billion years, after which the rising luminosity of the Sun will eliminate the biosphere.



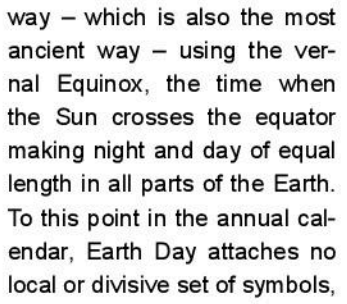
Sir Gaylord Anton Nelson

All may be wondering why a strong introduction about earth? The reason is obvious. On April 22, it is World Earth Day. This year, it is the 50th anniversary of World Earth Day with the theme "Climate Action."

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 every year, both held annually during spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. These are intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. The United Nations celebrates Earth Day each year on the March equinox, a tradition which was founded by peace activist John McConnell (1915 - 2012) in 1969. In September 1969 at a conference in Seattle, Washington, US Senator Gaylord Anton Nelson (1916 - 2005) of Wisconsin announced that in spring 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on the environment. This occurred during a time of great concern about overpopulation and when there was a strong movement towards "Zero Population Growth."

April 22, 1970, Earth Day marked the beginning of the modern environmental movement. Approximately, 20 million Americans participated, with a goal of a healthy, sustainable environment. Many activists and environmentalists namely Morton Hilbert, Denis Hayes, Walt Kelly, Marc McGinnes, Julian Norman Koenig, Alan Cranston, Paul Ehrlich, David Brower, Pete McCloskey, Garret Hardin, and others have accomplished developmental activities.

Theme: Climate Action



World Earth Day promotes environmental citizenship and activists connect change in local, national and global policies. Earth Day network reaches over 17,000 organisations in 174 countries, while the domestic programme engages 5,000 groups and over 25,000 educators co-ordinating millions of community development and environmental protection activities throughout the year.

Earth Day draws on astronomical phenomena in a new way – which is also the most ancient way – using the vernal Equinox, the time when the Sun crosses the equator making night and day of equal length in all parts of the Earth. To this point in the annual calendar, Earth Day attaches no local or divisive set of symbols, no statement of the truth or superiority of one way of life over another. But the selection of the March Equinox makes planetary observance of a shared event possible, and a flag which shows the Earth as seen from space appropriate. But, the equinoctial Earth Day is celebrated on the March Equinox (around 20 March) to mark the precise moment of astronomical mid-spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and of astronomical mid-autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. An Equinox in astronomy is that moment in time (not a whole day) when the centre of the Sun can be observed to be directly above the Earth's equator, occurring around March 20 and September 23 each year. In most cultures the equinoxes and solstices are considered to start or separate the seasons.

It is now very important to protect our planet from unnecessary pollution and other sources of harmful acts as the earth is facing pollution threat day by day. Earth Day is considered as the awakening of considerable senses for the protection and further development of go-green attitude. Therefore, concerted steps should be taken for further protection and longevity of the earth. Earth Day-2020 is the 50th Anniversary and it is high time to include activities like Great Global Clean-Up, Citizen Science, Volunteering, Advocacy, Education and Art.

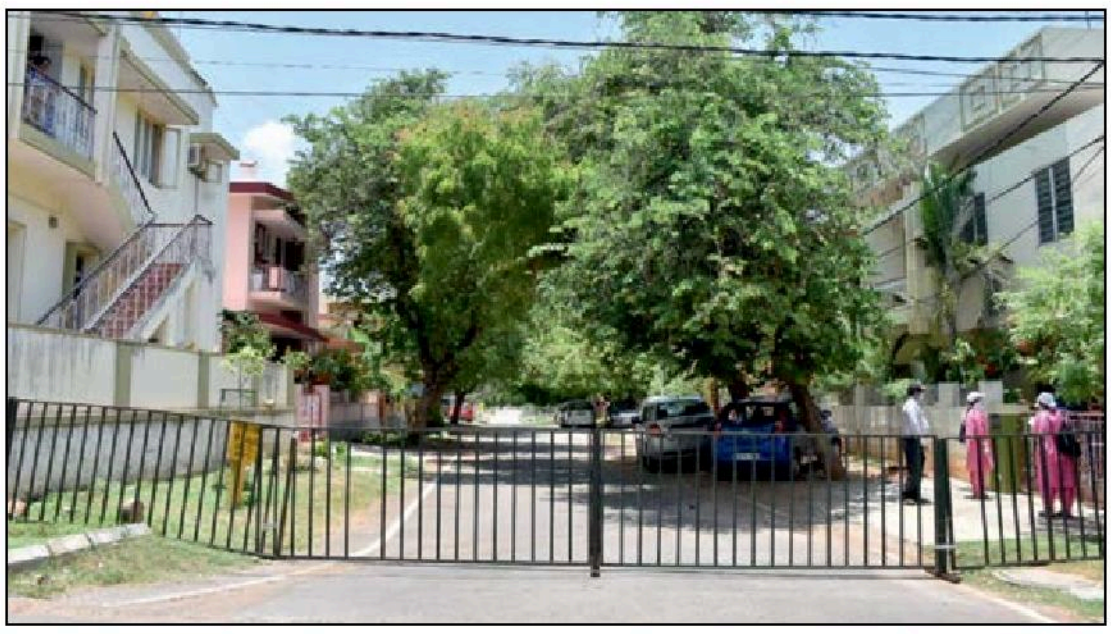
The mammoth challenges of acting on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most persuasive theme for the 50th anniversary. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. At the end of 2020, nations will be expected to increase their national commitments to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. The time is now for citizens to call for greater global ambition to tackle our climate crisis. Unless every country in the world steps up – and steps up with urgency and ambition — we are consigning current and future generations to a precarious future.

Earth Day-2020 will be far more than a day. It must be a historic moment when citizens of the world rise up in a united call for the creativity, innovation, ambition, and bravery that we need to meet our climate crisis and seize the enormous opportunities of a zero-carbon future.

Earth Day on April 22 is about working together to safeguard our planet. The campaign calls for people, organisations and Corporations to commit to an act that helps reduce carbon emissions and promotes sustainability. So far, over 80 million actions have been pledged. Some of the actions pledged are bike to school; take public transport; walk and cycle as much as possible; car-pool; eat more local food; become a vegetarian; wash clothes in cold water; take shorter showers; stop buying bottled water; switch to LED lights; turn off PCs and lights when not in use; stop buying individually packed snacks; run ceiling fan instead of the air-conditioner; take the stairs instead of the elevator. World Earth Day-2020 enlists commitments small and large from individuals to Governments and Corporations to quantify their acts of green through an easy-to-use online registration tool at the Earth Day Network.

— Dr. S.A. Mohan Krishna, Observational Astronomer

9 Red Zones inside Mysuru city



(Continued from page 1)

Some of the areas that have the Containment Zones in Mysuru city are Janatanagar, Kuvempunagar, Srirampura, two areas in J.P. Nagar, Meena Bazaar, Nazarbad, Vijayanagar First and Second stage. The containment zones have been barricaded with only a single point of entry and exit and a team comprising officials and staff from Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), City Police and Health Department are enforcing measures of Red Zone.

200 metres around house sealed

Over 200 metres of the area around the house of the COVID-19 positive patient is identified as Containment Zone and stringent measures have been put in place to contain the spread of COVID-19. The activities include banning the movement of people, delivery of all essentials to the doorstep of citizens.

The particular area will continue to remain as Containment zone until no COVID-19 positive case is reported for the next 28 days from the same area. All the primary and secondary contacts within the Containment Zone will strictly be under home quarantine.

As per the guidelines issued by the State Government and the MCC, if a COVID-19 positive case is found in an apartment complex, then the entire block or apartment tower will be declared a containment zone.

Incident Commanders

If it is a single block apartment, then the entire apartment complex will be declared as Containment Zone. Similarly, if the COVID-19 patient is found in an independent house or villa, the 100 metres radius area including the street on which the patient house is located will be declared as Containment Zone, the circular stated.

An Incident Commander has been appointed to monitor a particular containment area and the Commander has all magistrate powers to control the activities in the area. A command centre has been set up outside the containment areas with special squads to cater to the requirement of the people especially in providing emergency medical care. Special care will be ensured to the elderly, children and women living inside the Red Zones.

Essential supplies ensured

Essential supplies including vegetables, food, eatables, medicines, milk and other supplies are ensured to all houses including the quarantined houses based on their need and the command centres function 24/7 where officers and staff are working in shifts.

As per the directions, the Police have sealed the entire area geographically on a permanent basis by setting up barriers and check posts at the single entry and exit point. Officials told *Star of Mysore* that no person from the containment area shall be allowed to come out of the house and every Containment Zone will have only one entry and exit point. No private vehicle will be allowed to enter in or out of the area.

Outside a containment zone

At the Containment Zone established in Kuvempunagar near Suma Sopana Park, 13th Cross that was visited by *SOM* this morning, all vehicles of essential supplies and people who supply essentials were seen being sanitised using sprays and disinfectants before they enter a particular road and after they exit from the single exit point.

Assistant Commissioner of MCC Zone 3 Shivanandamurthy is the Incident Commander. He is assisted by Development Officer P.S. Sathyamurthy and Health Inspector Prabhakar. They are closely supervised by MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G Nagaraj. Special Officer for COVID-19 in Mysuru Harsha Gupta is the overall in-charge and the other officers who have a say are Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, City Police Commissioner Chandragupta and Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth.

Inside a Containment Zone, health workers and MCC staff regularly visit each house to ascertain the health condition, food and medicine requirements and awareness is spread on containing the killer virus. In addition, disinfectants are sprayed in the entire area and houses twice a day to prevent air-borne virus.

Coco peat manure

As per the directions of Special Officer Harsha Gupta, since it is risky and tough for MCC Pourakarmikas to visit the houses inside the Containment Zones, coco peat (made out of coconut husk. The fibrous coconut husk is pre washed, machine dried, sieved and packed) have been provided to each house where the residents can convert the wet waste into compost for their gardens and pots. The dry waste will be collected by Pourakarmikas once a week, officers said.

Coco peat being used to make compost out of wet waste.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,645
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	2,442
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	2,148
Persons isolated in hospital active cases	:	55
Total samples tested	:	2,593
Samples found negative	:	2,507
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	86
Persons cured / discharged	:	31
Death toll so far in Mysore	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	12
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	415
Persons cured / discharged	:	284
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	17
Total active cases in India	:	14,759
Persons cured / discharged	:	3,251
Death toll so far in India	:	590

(NOTE: FIGURES TILL 5 PM)

Two more test COVID-19 positive in Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr. 21- Two more persons have been tested positive in Mysuru. With this, the total Coronavirus positive cases in Mysuru have gone up to 55. In all, 86 positive cases (cumulative) have been reported in Mysuru and 31 persons have been discharged.

The latest to test positive are P-416, a 26-year-old male and a secondary contact of P-52, P-417, also a 26-year-old male and a secondary contact of P-52 have tested positive. In all, Karnataka has reported 418 positive cases, 272 active cases, 129 discharged and 17 deaths.

Out of 418 cases detected and confirmed in Karnataka so far, 9 cases are transit passengers of Kerala who have landed in Karnataka airports and being treated in Karnataka.

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

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